

## Oregon Summit Report 2012

### Oregon Judicial Department Mentoring History

*April 2007 New "Escort" Program introduced: Staff analyst assumes primary role, Interpreter IIs assist.*

Goal: The CIS Escort Program will provide the highest quality, mandated, linguistic access to state courts through ethically-bound, trained interpreters.

Mentoring Objectives :

- 1) To develop positive, proactive working relationships with the courts
- 2) To provide a tool to perform quality checks among lesser-used languages
- 3) To provide opportunities for professional growth and positive working relationships with lesser-used interpreters
- 4) To increase knowledge of culturally appropriate expectations and patterns of immigrant groups

*2007 Group consensus on supportive role of escorts*

Examples: "It seems to have a more positive / neutral effect when we do not identify ourselves as an "escort" or "doing an escort/ observation" with the interpreter. The emphasis can then move to welcoming, supporting, listening and then with trust, training, education and debriefing.

Introduction: Suggested ways to introduce oneself: "Hi, I'm Kelly Mills, from CIS to welcome you..... to make sure you have everything you need..... to answer any questions..... to get to know you better.....to help guide you in your first assignment.....to assist with the hard parts of this hearing..... to introduce you to the court staff and get you set up....." " We like to make interpreters feel welcome....." "To explain Oregon policies such as team interpreting..." "Usually I sit right here and can help....." "I'll be over here to guide you if you need it." "It can be really nerve-wracking when... so I'll...."

2008 Name Change: Escorts become "Mentors"

Rationale: emphasize the coaching and teaching aspect of working with lesser used language interpreters. The role is interactive versus observational and debriefing the experience is key.

2012 All Staff Interpreter Meeting includes session on beginning of rewrite of mentor program purpose, goals, and objectives.